This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-93. (Cancelled)

94. (currently amended) A polymer feedstock in the form of a cold-pressed tablet or pellet for use in extrusion of an extruded product containing PVA, the cold-pressed tablet or pellet comprising, by weight of the feedstock, a blend of:

40 to 70% PVA;

8 to 15% plasticizer;

0.5 to 1.5% internal lubricant;

0.0001 to 0.1% external lubricant; and

5 to 50% solid particulate filler.

95. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 wherein the internal lubricant comprises a fatty acid amide.

96. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 95 wherein the fatty acid amide is a straight or branched C12-C24 fatty acid amide.

97. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 wherein the plasticiser is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, glycerol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycols and C2-C8 amides.

98. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 wherein the filler comprises inert, inorganic material.

99. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 wherein the filler comprises a superabsorbent material.

100. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 wherein the filler comprises both an inert, inorganic material and superabsorbent material.

101. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 98 wherein the inorganic filler comprises calcium carbonate.

102. (cancelled)

103. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 wherein the external lubricant comprises a stearate.

104. (previously presented) A PVA-containing polymer feedstock in the form of a cold-pressed tablet or pellet comprising, by weight of the feedstock :-

40 to 80% PVA;

5 to 50% solid particulate filler;

5 to 15% plasticizer; and

0.5 to 2.5% internal lubricant.

105. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 104, comprising, by weight of the feedstock :-

40 to 70% PVA;

20 to 50% solid particulate filler;

8 to 15% plasticizer;

0.5 to 1.5% internal lubricant; and

0.0001 to 0.1% external lubricant.

106. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 104 wherein a fatty acid amide is provided as internal lubricant.

107. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 105 wherein stearate is provided as external lubricant.

108. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 105 comprising, by weight of the feedstock :-

50 to 60% PVA;

30 to 40% stearate-coated calcium carbonate;

8 to 15% glycerol;

0.5 to 1.5% octadecanamide; and

0.0001 to 0.1% zinc stearate.

109. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 prepared without liquefying the bulk of the polymer granules.

110. (previously presented) A polymer feedstock according to claim 94 having a moisture content less than about 10% by weight of the feedstock but greater than 0.01% to bind the pellets or tablets.

111. (previously presented) A method of making a PVA-containing polymer feedstock according to claim 94 comprising blending the PVA with the plasticizer, the internal lubricant, the external

lubricant and the filler, said internal lubricant including a fatty acid amide, in the presence of an amount of moisture sufficient to bind the polymer feedstock into tablets or pellets upon cold pressing and cold pressing the feedstock into tablets or pellets.

112. (previously presented) A method according to claim 111 comprising blending, in a high speed blender, the PVA and the internal lubricant.

113. (previously presented) A method according to claim 111 comprising adding moisture to the components to be blended.

114. (previously presented) A method according to claim 111 wherein PVA and lubricant are fed into a high speed mixer gravimetrically.

115. (previously presented) A method of making a PVA-containing polymer feedstock according to claim 111, wherein the filler comprises a superabsorbent material.

116. (currently amended) A method of extruding a PVA-containing polymer feedstock comprising forming a feedstock according to claim 94 and extruding the feedstock into a product, wherein the feedstock is prepared ~~without liquefying the bulk of the polymer granules substantially without melting of the PVA~~.